

Minutes of Meeting Lebanon Response Plan Partners' Update Meeting

Meeting Location	Remotely Via Zoom	Meeting Date	21 Feb 2025
Chairperson(s)	Dr. Ola Boutros, LRP General Supervisor (MoSA) Kristin Arthur, Senior Inter-Agency Coordinator (UNHCR) Marianne Al Haibe, A.I Senior Inter-Agency Coordinator (UNDP) Rawad El Zir, Head of Coordination (OCHA)	Meeting Time	10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.
Minutes Prepared by	Jana Nasr, Senior Inter-Agency Coordination Assistant (UNHCR)	Meeting Duration	2.00 hrs.
Participants	140+ participants from the Government of Lebanon (GoL), UN Agencies, NGOs, and CSOs.		
Agenda	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opening Remarks 2. LRP Update 3. US Funding Update 4. 2024 End of Year Reporting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EoY Funding Update • EoY Support to Lebanese Dashboard 5. AoB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder on ActivityInfo Reporting • Lebanon Country Page Overview 		

1. Opening Remarks

Dr. Ola Boutros, LRP General Supervisor (MoSA)
 Kristin Arthur, Senior Inter-Agency Coordinator (UNHCR)
 Marianne Al Haibe, A.I Senior Inter-Agency Coordinator (UNDP)
 Rawad El Zir, Head of Coordination (OCHA)

In their opening remarks, the Lebanon Response Plan (LRP) Co-Chairs welcomed the participants and presented the agenda. Dr. Ola Boutros noted that the formation of the new government is progressing smoothly within the framework of the response, allowing partners to resume cooperation, including data-sharing for deduplication. She emphasized that any changes affecting other ministries will be monitored and followed up accordingly. She also noted that the Council of Ministers is expected to gain confidence next week. Additionally, she highlighted the Minister of Social Affairs' pledge to complete the process related to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

2. LRP Update

Kristin Arthur, Senior Inter-Agency Coordinator (UNHCR)

Kristin Arthur provided an update on the LRP for 2025:

- The LRP is oriented around 4 strategic objectives/priorities identified by the Government of Lebanon and response partners.
 1. Provide immediate humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations to ensure critical needs are met.
 2. Ensure protection of the vulnerable populations.
 3. Support service provision through national systems including national rapid response capacity.
 4. Reinforce Lebanon's economic, social, and environmental stability.

- Total population covered under the plan is 5.7 million, with 4.1 million people identified as in need of humanitarian assistance.
- The LRP aims to target 3.6 million people with assistance, ensuring that support reaches those most in need across these population groups. This includes:
 - 1.7 million vulnerable Lebanese
 - 1.5 million displaced Syrians
 - 200,000 Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL)
 - 23,026 Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)
 - 175,947 migrants
- We have 161 appealing UN and NGO partners under the LRP for 2025 including 14 UN Agencies, 86 National NGOs, and 61 International NGOs.
- The comparison of the number of appealing partners between 2024 and 2025 is available on slide 10 here and the comparison of the funding requirements between 2024 and 2025 is available on slide 11.
- The comparison of the number of appealing partners between 2024 and 2025 can be found on slide 10 [here](#), and the comparison of funding requirements for the same period is available on slide 11.
- Total funding appeal for 2025 stands at \$3.01 billion, reflecting a 10% increase from last year's appeal which was \$2.72 billion.
- The breakdown of the LRP 2025 target and funding requirements by sector is available on slide 7 and 8 [here](#).
- For additional details please refer to the LRP 2025 At a Glance [here](#).
- Targets have been adjusted to reflect increased needs among Lebanese, in some cases balanced by a reduced target for Syrians.
- Budgets have generally increased due to higher needs, expanded targets, or the inclusion of additional activities. However, in some cases, budgets have decreased due to a multi-sectoral or system-wide approach or a focus on specific population groups.
- All strategies have been finalized and endorsed by their respective line ministries.
- The overall balance between the Humanitarian and Stabilization components has been maintained, with some sectors (Basic Assistance, Livelihoods, Shelter, Social Stability, Energy, and WaSH) slightly increasing their focus on stabilization.
- The LRP's governance and coordination architecture presented on slide 13 [here](#), and the sector coordination structure on slide 14, build on previous practice, with structures led by GoL and co-led by UN agencies and NGOs. This structure is endorsed by Steering Committee.
- Specific adjustments and additions were made following the significant escalation of hostilities. For example:
 - Food Security and agriculture Sector is now a cluster.
 - Logistics Cluster was activated under the Flash Appeal (FA).
 - Site Management Coordination (SMC) Sector was activated under the FA.

3. US Funding Update

Rawad El Zir, Head of Coordination (OCHA)

Rawad El Zir provided an update on the recent suspension of US funding and its expected impact on humanitarian operations in Lebanon:

- A preliminary analysis based on funding trends from 2018 to 2024 indicates that US funding has historically constituted an average of 29% of total funding for the LRP.

- If the freeze extends until the end of 2025, a similar impact is expected. Some partners have started receiving waivers, but the overall situation remains uncertain.
- A deeper analysis of 2024 funding data (as of mid-December) highlights that sectors most affected by the freeze include WaSH, Nutrition, and Protection, with WaSH being particularly impacted (over 30% of its funding in 2023 came from US sources).
- Similarly, for the Flash Appeal, sectors such as Logistics, Security, Social Stability, and Health are among the most affected.
- As of now, reported funding for 2025 stands at \$48 million, which includes carry-over from 2024 and multi-year funding commitments. However, it is unclear whether this amount has been disbursed or is also subject to the freeze.
- Partners are urged to ensure timely and accurate reporting of their funding status to facilitate a clearer impact analysis.
- The Inter-Sector is engaging with sector coordinators at both national and sub-national levels to monitor the evolving situation and explore mitigation strategies for short, medium, and long-term impacts. Additionally, the Lebanese government is also engaging in its own advocacy to address both humanitarian and stabilization concerns.
- For further data, please refer to slides 16 to 19 [here](#).

4. 2024 End of Year Reporting

EoY Funding Update

Raffi Kouzoujian, Assistant Information Management Officer (UNHCR)

Raffi Kouzoujian presented the LRP 2024 End of Year (EoY) Funding Update:

- \$1.02 B (38% of appeal), up 8.5% from the same period in 2023 (\$939.4).
Distribution: 74.6% to UN agencies, 23 % to INGOs, 2.4 % to NNGOs.
- \$300.74 M (11% of appeal), down by 24.4% from the same period in 2023 (\$397.7 M).
- \$1.32 B (49% of appeal), up 1.5% from the same period in 2024 (\$1.3 B).
- \$303.4 M contributions made to the Flash Appeal in 2024 earmarked for projects responding to the escalation of hostilities in Lebanon, according to partner reports.
- The Funding trend from 2020 to 2024 is available on slide 23 [here](#).
- Protection (76%), Education (67%), and Social Stability (64%) are the highest funded sectors compared to the appeal.
- Nutrition (12%), Shelter (21%), and Food Security & Agriculture (31%) are the lowest funded sectors compared to the appeal.
- The LRP End-of-Year Funding Update for 2024, including a summary per sector is available [here](#).

EoY Support for Lebanese Dashboard

Stephanie Laba, Inter-Agency Coordination Officer (UNHCR)

Stephanie Laba provided a snapshot of support to Lebanese communities under the Lebanon Response Plan (LRP):

- The support to Lebanese dashboard is produced biannually to clearly display the support provided to Lebanese individuals, households, and institutions through the LRP.
- The indicators used in the dashboard were agreed upon with sectors and have been updated based on 2024 reporting data.

- The dashboard features support provided to various sectors, including Basic Assistance, Education, Food Security and Agriculture, Health, Nutrition, Livelihoods, Protection, Shelter, Social Stability, and Water.
- The End-of-Year Update on the LRP Support to Lebanese dashboard can be found here in [Arabic](#) and [English](#).

5. AoB

Reminder on ActivityInfo Reporting

Stephanie Laba, Inter-Agency Coordination Officer (UNHCR)

Stephanie reminded partners of the importance of reporting on [ActivityInfo](#):

- It's only through partner's reporting of activities and funding that we can understand if our planning is on track and if we are making progress towards our targets.
- Without accurate and timely reporting, we can't develop dashboards, reports, or other products that inform donors and help us advocate for addressing critical gaps.
- Partners' accurate reporting on ActivityInfo is what keeps the response transparent and effective and without it nothing can be achieved in terms of knowledge and information sharing, tracking, and advocacy.

Lebanon Country Page Overview

Martin Stobbs, Information Management Officer (UNHCR)

Martin Stobbs provided an overview of the Lebanon Country Page:

- The Lebanon Inter-Sector Coordination webpage has been revamped for improved accessibility and information sharing.
- Key Features:
 - Population Data
 - Sector Working Group pages
 - Latest Documents
 - Interactive Dashboards
 - Featured Documents
 - Links to resources/websites
- Each sector and working group has a dedicated page for key documents, reports, and assessments.
- Sector IMOs were encouraged to update the pages from A to Z and share documents for better coordination.
- The Lebanon Coordination page is available [here](#)